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Department of Energy  
Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office  
P.O. Box 30307  
North Las Vegas, Nv. 89036-0307  
Dr. Jane R. Summerson, EIS Document Manager

Dr. Summerson,

1        Nevada residents do not want nuclear waste dumped in its state. I certainly don't! I do however, wonder and grieve over the complacency of Nevada citizens and elected officials to aggressively shout that opinion! The dangers and stigma of this plan are detrimental to the safety of our citizens and continuing dynamic growth in our state. Nevada had its turn with nuclear experimentation. Now let some willing state take over.

2        Over sixty years ago, Nevada was a sparsely populated, remote territory with scant representation. It could likewise, do little to resist U.S. Government plans for nuclear experimentation. If anything, it welcomed government activity, fondly remembering the benefits of the Hoover Dam project. The ragtag residents had little to object or to offer in a time and place of want. Las Vegas was a small and dusty railroad stop welcoming any influx of outside money. Then, there was a war going on!

Today, things are much different. Las Vegas is a dynamic city in a growing state, blooming as a result of vision and extraordinary effort. The influx of six thousand new residents per month shouts its success!

Is it right for our U.S. government to insist on placing the nation's high level, nuclear waste in Nevada's soil even if the citizens of the state oppose it? Does the Department of Energy feel it has a grandfathered right simply because the nuclear industry had an unopposed beginning in a largely primitive area during WWII?

To force high level, radioactive waste storage only 1½ hrs away from the fastest growing city in the country borders on criminal. The location proximity to the city of Las Vegas and suburbs must rule out the Yucca mountain storage. Ninety miles is not a great space anymore.

It's like L.A. to Santa Barbara or L.A. to Palm Springs or to Bakersfield. Like San Diego to Anaheim or to Long Beach. As the Southern California area quickly grew, the recent decade of growth in Las Vegas has been and is nothing less than phenomenal. How soon will we be in sight of the site? How close can we get? Imagine a circumference of barbed wire fences with posted signs, "GEIGER COUNTERS REQUIRED BEYOND THIS POINT" at some place.

3        Nevada is the the third most seismically active state in our country. The July, 1999 double earthquake shakers in Nevada clearly indicate the likelihood of experiencing severe, destructive tremors! Aren't there less, seismically active states willing to take nuclear waste? An eight point shaker in Nevada

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3 cont'd.

is not out of the question.

4

As our nation knows, Las Vegas is an expanding, adult playground with both an exciting and relaxing theme. Ongoing activity with the transportation of radioactive waste will result in shipping accidents. Spills will occur as will incidents at the storage facility. What will be the impact of these likely occurrences only an hour and a half away from a healthy population?

5

News reports of these problems will erode the public's feelings and confidence of visiting our great city. Las Vegas will quickly lose its charm and wonder in the threatening atmosphere of regular radioactive waste being hauled to a deadly depository so near!

Las Vegas has spent astronomic sums to create dreams, providing replicas of the most popular and exotic attractions in the world. The vision of high level, toxic, radioactive waste being delivered only 90 miles away destroys that illusion. It substitutes caravans of anxious semis hurrying to dump their horrible cargo, tons of unstable, cancerous material on Nevada's soil. The spectre of contaminated, poisonous ground glowing in the desert will surely change the feelings of visitors to our city and state.

6

States have certain, rights for its citizens over national interests. To force risky and dangerous activities on states that resist them is wrong and begs for trouble. Has the option of other states or countries willing to take nuclear waste been explored?

Surely, Nevadans are privy to the same rights as other states for a "government of the people, by the people and for the people." Simply stated, Nevada does not want the nation's nuclear waste! My personal feelings are to let the states that produce nuclear waste, take care of their own as a regulatory measure! Nevada had its turn!

Sincerely,

J.A. Pinto 7612 SeaCliffWay LasVegas Nv. 89128 (702) 363-4836

